



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol, September 8, 2003

This Week – Ongoing Work – 9/8/03 through 9/12/03

Highlights:

- **14 steel columns have been erected** in the southwest quadrant of the site. More than 40 cross beams have been bolted to the columns to secure the columns to the roof line of the perimeter walls.
- **Crews have installed more than 50 caissons in the southwest quadrant.** Eventually, 165 caissons will be poured to support all of the steel and concrete columns that will be erected on the CVC site.
- Excavation has reached its base depth of 50 feet throughout most of the site.

East Front Plaza Work

- Crews will continue to erect steel columns in the southwest quadrant during the week. Steel erection work will occur in spurts over the next few months as areas are cleared for installation and as steel is delivered to the site.
- Between 300 and 400 truckloads of soil continue to be excavated and removed each day. Truck traffic has diminished slightly with excavation now more than 80 percent complete. More than 400,000 cubic yards of soil have been removed, but some areas need to be maintained at higher elevations to provide construction vehicle access to and from the site.
- Installation of tie-backs is expected to be completed this week.
- Excavation continues below the existing Russell Tunnel to clear the way for the CVC truck tunnel. Steel support beams are being installed below the tunnel slab to ensure its stability.

The first steel column for the CVC structure was raised and set into place in the southwest quadrant of the site on Friday, September 5. The event marks a turning point in the construction process as focus will shift from excavating the site down to building the structure up.



East Front Extension (Inside the Capitol)

- Demolition of architectural and structural elements continues on several levels within the East Front Extension. The work will clear the way for the transition zone between the CVC and the Capitol, which will include escalators, stairwells and two 25-passenger elevators.

Senate Side (Truck Tunnel Zone)

Truck Tunnel Construction:

- CVC truck tunnel construction work continues on the East Front Plaza adjacent to and within the Senate triangular parking area, along Constitution Avenue NW, and along the east side of New Jersey Avenue NW between Constitution Avenue and C Street NW.

Next Week – Anticipated Work – 9/15/03 through 9/19/03

East Front Plaza Work

- Crews will continue to erect steel columns in the southwest quadrant
- Excavation will continue throughout the northern half of the CVC construction site. Installation of utilities and caissons will continue in several locations.

East Front (Inside the Capitol Building)

- Demolition of architectural and structural elements will continue in the basement, sub-basement and upper floors within the East Front Extension.

Senate Side (Outside the CVC Construction Fence)

- CVC truck tunnel work will continue in all areas of the tunnel construction zone.



Above: An American flag is suspended from the first crossbeam to be used to construct the CVC roof structure. At right: Two workers roll up the flag after the crossbeam was secured to the first column that had been erected on the CVC site.



*If you have any questions about the Capitol Visitor Center Project, please contact **Tom Fontana**, CVC Project Communications Officer for the Architect of the Capitol, at (202) 228-1310, or by e-mail at: tfontana@aooc.gov. You can read this document and previous editions on our web site at www.aoc.gov (click on the "Capitol Visitor Center" link in the project list).*